

Dear Representative Giannaros

I am writing in support of HB 6329, ACC Dissection Choice. I am a retired plastic surgeon, having practiced for over 30 years in the United States. I grew up in England where dissection is not required in schools. I did not dissect in College in the US, nor in medical school, nor in my 6 years of general surgery and plastic surgery residencies. It is clear that dissection is not necessary as preparation for a medical or veterinary career. For children or teachers who want to have access to knowledge of how bodies work, there are innumerable readily available alternatives including realistic models and computer programs. Many children who use these alternatives out-perform their peers who learn by dissecting. Children are often disturbed by having to dissect animals since they know that the animals were killed in order for them to dissect. This is an unnecessary assault on their innate compassion. Many promising science students make a choice of a non scientific career because they do not wish to dissect. This is a great loss at a time when we need bright young people to pursue scientific careers. Finally dissection alternatives are cheaper for schools than animals and can be reused, an important point for voters, including myself.

I respectfully request that you support HB 6329.

Marjorie Cramer, MD, FACS
38 Huntingtown Road
Newtown, CT 06470